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January 21, 2014

Gail Farber, Director  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Attn: Water Resources Division – Reservoir Cleanouts  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-9974

Re: Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Farber:

The Draft Environmental Impact Report is inadequate because it fails to present any genuine alternatives to that of an unnecessarily sudden, drastic, and massive removal of sediment, and fails to adequately evaluate the negative impacts resulting therefrom and consider how those impacts could be mitigated. Those negative impacts include:

- 1) the destruction of dozens of acres of forest that provide critical habitat for birds and wildlife, without a sufficient mitigation plan;
- 2) a massive increase in traffic, resulting in a substantial increase in air pollution and noise;
- 3) a substantial diminution in the value of the area to recreational users, including those like myself who have enjoyed its peaceful, natural beauty.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) is inadequate because it fails to demonstrate why a substantially less sudden, drastic, and massive removal of sediment having substantially less adverse impacts would not be sufficient both to maintain the reservoir and to cause the danger of flooding to be kept to an acceptable level of risk. The alternative plan set forth in the Arroyo Seco Foundation’s January 21, 2014, letter to you, would appear to be an example of a less drastic alternative that the DEIR failed to consider. Why was no such less drastic option given serious consideration in the DEIR? Why was the DEIR and its purported alternatives drafted in such a way so as to virtually foreordain an alternative entailing such unnecessary drastic, virtually unmitigated, destruction?

Please reject the DEIR in its current form, and cause it to be redrafted to genuinely consider both other alternatives and how to minimize adverse impacts resulting from the project.

Very truly yours,

/s/

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Ross S. Heckmann